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Booklet Discusses Teaching Career

TO ENCOURAGE college preparation for teaching, a recently published booklet, "Is Home Economics the Career for Me?" gives the pros and cons of a career in education.

Published by the Vocational Guidance Committee of the Iowa Home Economics Association, under the chairmanship of Dr. Hester Chadderdon, professor of home economics education, it has been sent to teachers of home economics, vocational guidance personnel in the public schools, county home economists and all seniors majoring in home economics education in Iowa colleges.

The pamphlet is written for high school students and is accompanied by an outline of suggestions and references for vocational guidance in the home economics field. It will supplement material in magazines and books regarding types of positions open to home economists. Suggestions from Iowa teachers and high school students have been incorporated. Pauline Jacobsen, applied art junior, designed the cover.

The booklet includes information about the importance of home economics education, the advantages and disadvantages of a teaching position and criteria for judging personal qualifications for the work.

Teaching in a small community has both advantages and disadvantages. Salaries may be lower than in city schools, equipment may be limited and there are fewer contacts with other home economists.

On the other hand, a good teacher is appreciated by the community and friendly contacts with the students and their families are possible. The home economics teacher who teaches for only a few years may use her home economics training in other ways. Many of them marry and utilize their skills in homemaking; others enter the commercial field or become county extension workers.

The booklet warns the prospective home economics teacher about "extra" work which requires after-school-hours, but it emphasizes the advantages of a long summer vacation. Salaries vary and are unusually high at the present time. "Since there is a shortage of teachers," states Dr. Chadderdon, "and since this shortage is likely to be worse in 4 years, there is a good chance that salaries will still be good at that time."

Dorothy Canfield Fisher, one of today's outstanding novelists, says that "Of the teachers paid out of our taxes, those in home economics departments of high schools are the ones who can most help modern girls prepare themselves."

One of the primary requirements that determines whether or not a student is personally fitted to enter the teaching field is that of liking children, young people and adults. Teaching home economics requires a person who is versatile and can make wise decisions in guiding students. It is not necessary to be a genius, but students who rank below the middle of their high school classes probably should not prepare for home economics teaching unless they have exceptional ability in working with people.—*Marian Hoppe*

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